

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 16257 130806Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AGR-05 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 STR-01

TRSE-00 SWF-01 CIEP-01 FRB-01 OMB-01 OES-03 /095 W

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R 130700Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6702

INFO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 16257

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EGEN, JA, PK, IN, BG

SUBJECT: VISIT OF PAKISTANI DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER

AHMED TO JAPAN

SUMMARY: DURING AHMED VISIT GOJ PLEDGED NEW ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE BUT DID NOT FAVORABLY RESPOND TO AHMED REQUEST THAT JAPAN GUARANTEE CONTINUED IMPORTS OF PAKISTANI TEXTILES. FONOFF REP ASSESSED JAPAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS AS GOOD, BUT NOTED PAKS BEAR GRUDGE AGAINST JAPAN FOR LATTER'S QTE FAVORITISM UNQTE TOWARDS INDIA AND BANGLADESH. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 16257 130806Z

1. EMBOFFS REVIEWED RECENT VISIT TO JAPAN OF

PAKISTANI MINISTER AHMED WITH FONOFF REP (HAMANO, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST ASIA DIVISION). VISIT WAS DISTINGUISHED BY THREE HOUR MEETING WITH OUTGOING FONMIN KIMURA AS WELL AS BY BRIEF MEETINGS LATER WITH NEW FONMIN MIYAZAWA AND NEW PRIME MINISTER MIKI. ACCORDING TO HAMANO, RELATIVELY SMALL PORTION OF TALK WITH KIMURA DEVOTED TO BILATERAL RELATIONS. (AHMED'S ASSESSMENT OF SOUTH ASIA SITUATION SENT SEPTEL.) AMONG TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE THE FOLLOWING:

A) JAPANESE AID TO PAKISTAN. FONMIN KIMURA PLEDGED TO PAKISTAN A NEW COMMODITY LOAN OF 7 BILLION YEN (ABOUT 23 MILLION DOLLARS AT 300 YEN/DOLLAR) AND EXPRESSED JAPAN'S WILLINGNESS TO RESUME PROJECT AID, WHICH WAS SUSPENDED TWO YEARS AGO AS RESULT OF PAKISTAN-BANGLADESH DEBT DIVISION PROBLEM. VISIT TO PAKISTAN BY FONOFF WORKING LEVEL OFFICIAL WITHIN LAST SEVERAL WEEKS RESULTED IN SUFFICIENT PROGRESS ON DEBT DIVISION ISSUE TO ALLOW PROJECT AID TO BE RESUMED. GOJ'S PRESENT INTENTION IS TO PROVIDE 10.5 BILLION YEN LOAN (ABOUT 35 MILLION DOLLARS) FOR CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT PLANT. (DURING EMBOFF'S EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH FIRST ECONOMIC COOPERATION DIVISION DEPUTY DIRECTOR SEXAKI, LATTER SAID TERMS OF BOTH PROPOSED LOANS WOULD BE 4 PERCENT INTEREST AND REPAYMENT OVER 25 YEARS FOLLOWING 7 YEAR GRACE PERIOD. SEZAKI SAID THAT PROJECT LOAN COMMITMENT WOULD REPRESENT TOTAL JAPANESE PROJECT AID FOR TWO YEAR PERIOD AND THAT GOJ WOULD NOT PLEDGE ADDITIONAL PROJECT AID IN COMING YEAR. SEZAKI ALSO SAID ONE FACTOR IN GOJ DECISION TO RESUME PROJECT AID HAD BEEN GOP ARGUMENT THAT BY PROVIDING PROJECT AID TO BOTH INDIA AND BANGLADESH BUT DECLINING TO GIVE IT TO PAKISTAN, GOJ NOT FOLLOWING EVEN-HANDED POLICY.) HAMANO NOTED THAT AHMED HAD SAID NOT ONE WORD OF THANKS FOR PLEDGE OF NEW JAPANESE AID, BUTH RATHER RESPONDED BY STRESSING THAT GOJ'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS DEBT DIVISION PROBLEM HAD BEEN MOST SEVERE OF ANY DONOR'S. GOJ REPS DID NOT APPRECIATE THAT RESPONSE, HE SAID.

B) TRADE. AHMED EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT JAPANESE IMPORTS

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 16257 130806Z

OF PAKISTANI COTTON FABRICS AND YARN HAVE DECREASED (DUE TO DECREASING JAPANESE DEMAND, SAID HAMANO), AND SUGGESTED SOME KIND OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT TO ENSURE CONTINUED JAPANESE PURCHASES. FONOFF RESPONSE WAS THAT SUCH A QUESTION SHOULD BE TAKEN UP WITH INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY (MITI). SURPRISINGLY, HOWEVER, PAKISTANI REPS DID NOT RAISE SUBJECT DURING SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS AT MITI.

C) INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST. AHMED REITERATED PAKISTAN'S POSITION RE INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST AND SUPPORT FOR IDEA OF NON NUCLEAR ZONE. JAPANESE DID NOT RESPOND AND RE-FUSHED TO INSERT PARAGRAPH WITH EXPLICIT PAKISTANI VIEWS IN JOINT PRESS RELEASE. RATHER, RELEASE CONTAINED ONLY MENTION OF IMPORTANCE BOTH COUNTRIES ATTACH TO NON-PROLIFERATION.

2. STATE OF JAPAN-PAKISTAN RELATIONS. HAMANO ASSESSED BILATERAL RELATIONS AS BEING GOOD, BUT NOTED THAT PAKISTAN BEARS GRUDGE FOR WHAT IT VIEWS AS JAPAN'S RECENT FAVORITISM OF INDIA AND BANGLADESH. DURING VISIT TO PAKISTAN SOME TIME AGO BY FONOFF VICE MINISTER TOGO, SAID HAMANO, AHMED DURING MEETING WITH TOGO HAD PRESENTED ACTUAL LIST OF PAKISTANI COMPLAINTS ABOUT JAPAN, ESSENCE OF WHICH WAS THAT JAPAN WAS PAYING TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO BANGLADESH. DURING AHMED'S VISIT TO TOKYO, AHMED SUGGESTED PERIODIC MINISTERIAL LEVEL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, BUT JAPANESE REJECTED SUGGESTION--TOGO IN PARTICULAR WAS UNSYMPATHETIC--SAYING BEST APPROACH WAS TO MAKE BETTER USE OF PRESENT PRACTICE OF HOLDING ANNUAL CONSULTATIONS AT VICE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. COMMENT: DESPITE GOP GRUDGE AGAINST JAPAN AND FONOFF'S RESENTMENT OF AHMED'S UNGRACIOUS RESPONSE TO JAPAN'S PLEDGE OF NEW AID, BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP IS IMPROVING. RESUMPTION OF BILATERAL AID NOT ONLY INDICATES JAPANESE ATTEMPT TO APPEAR MORE EVEN HANDED VIS A VIS INDIA, PAKISTAN, AND BANGLADESH; IT REPRESENTS MORE OPTIMISTIC VIEW OF PAKISTAN'S FUTURE, IN CONTRAST TO VIEW ALLEGEDLY HELD BY GOJ AMBASSADOR TO ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATELY AFTER 1971 WAR, WHO WROTE PAKISTAN OFF AS COUNTRY WITHOUT FUTURE. END COMMENT.

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PAGE 04 TOKYO 1625Z 130806Z

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